

# New Social Service Centre Opened

Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox cut the ribbon, formally opening the new Port of Spain Social Services Centre. The Centre, now located at 132 Henry Street, Port of Spain, accommodates four social service delivery divisions of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services: the Social Welfare Local Public Assistance Board (previously located on Richmond Street), the National Family Services Division, National Social Development Programme, and the Citizen Engagement and Outreach Services Unit.

During her feature address, Minister Cox indicated that the move showcases the Ministry's aim to enhance service delivery and improve accessibility for those in need. According to Minister Cox, "This multi-service office highlights the decision of the Ministry to move in a different direction to establish social services that work hand in hand to help, empower, and transform the lives of our poor and vulner-



Minister Cox (center), accompanied by PS Baptiste-Simmons and DPS Guy-Hernandez, cut the ceremonial ribbon at the new Social Services Centre in Port of Spain.

able clients. The collaboration of these divisions is necessary to expand and improve this Ministry's customer service delivery and to enhance convenience and access to the public. I look forward to the Social Welfare Division, National Family Services Division, National Social Development Programme, and the Citizen Engagement and Outreach Unit working together to respond to the needs of eligible poor and vulnerable persons in this country." She also conveyed that plans are underway to establish a social welfare local board office in Arima. "The Ministry will be opening an additional centre in Arima for fiscal 2025. Most of our clients who live in the Borough of Arima and environs will now be required to go to the Local Public Assistance Board in Arima. More details will be shared about this in the near future. These changes will positively impact our clients and our staff. We continue to look for buildings that can adequately and comfortably accommodate our staff in Aranguez, Point Fortin, Couva, and Sangre Grande. These are the Local Public Assistance Boards that will be our focus for fiscal 2025," said Minister Cox. She closed by encouraging staff to be professional, compassionate, and kind to clients at all times, emphasising the importance of maintaining a professional appearance. Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, Mrs. Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, also delivered remarks and encouraged staff to continue embodying the true spirit of public service by delivering exceptional service to clients and assured them that the Ministry is steadfast in its commitment to putting people first, nurturing our greatest asset, promoting good governance, and service excellence.



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services reminds members of the public of its Direct Deposit System for clients who are in receipt of the following grants:

- Disability Assistance;
- Public Assistance; and
- Senior Citizens' Pension



The **DIRECT DEPOSIT** System provides clients with a **Secure & Reliable** option for receiving grants from the Government.

Since its roll-out, **DIRECT DEPOSIT** has created an easier and more efficient means for senior citizens to access their pension.

The Ministry is asking ALL Beneficiaries of its Grants to sign up for Direct Deposit Payment by following these steps:

- 1 Complete the Direct Deposit Form, which is available at any Social Welfare District Office, ONLINE via the Ministry's website [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt), and at the Commercial Banks;
- 2 Attach an Official Bank Statement or record of your account number at the Bank (not older than three months); and attach the statement to the form OR
- 3 Take the completed form to the Bank to have your Account Number and the Branch Number inserted on the form and have the Bank stamp your form;
- 4 Attach a copy of your computer-generated birth certificate to the form; and
- 5 Return the completed form and documents to your nearest Social Welfare District Office.

For further information on this initiative, persons should call the Ministry's toll-free number at 800-IMSD (800 - 1673) or visit a Social Welfare Office in their region OR visit [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt)

*National*  
**Centenarian Programme**  
*continues*



**Dhanrajie Tewarie**  
Age- 100



**Nathaniel Beharry**  
Age- 101